

CARDIFF CITY SQUEEZED through to the third round of the F.A. Cup against gallant non-League Wycombe Wanderers at Ninian Park—and it was that man Tony Evans again who got the lone winner—his 11th goal in 14 games. City dominated for long periods but they had several scares as Wycombe came fighting back.

City gave their new pre-match wave from the centre circle to a crowd boosted to around the 10,000 mark by a contingent of about 1,000 Wycombe fans, crammed noisily into the enclosure.

Brian Lee, manager of the reigning Rothmans Isthmian League champions, had promised that his side would play attacking football and now he content with trying to force a replay on their notoriously sloping Loakes Park ground.

The Buckinghamshire side kept to their word by going in City from the kick-off.

They did the lion's share

GOAL CHART
CARDIFF CITY
Evans 43 min.

MAN OF MATCH



ADRIAN ALSTON

of the attacking in the first 15 minutes, sided by poor defensive distribution from City, and only the unfriendly woodwork denied them a 100th-minute lead.

Wanderers' skipper Keith Mead made two timely headed clearances in the first few minutes, one from a Mike England free kick neatly headed on by Adrian Alston.

A flicked-on header at the near post by Tony Evans from a sixth-minute Phil Dwyer centre posed no problems for Wanderers' keeper, John Maskell.

John Williams and Alston linked his cross hopelessly wide a minute later, after Alston and Livermore had combined to put him in the clear.

But City gifted Wycombe with too much possession with faulty passes, notably from Albert Larmour and Freddy Pethard, a replacement at left back for the injured Clive Charles.

The visitors showed a willingness to push forward from midfield in support of their three front men, and carved two chances within 60 seconds.

The first came after nine minutes from a clever throw-in rise, John Delaney dummed the throw from Kennedy for Geoff Anthony to gain possession well inside City's penalty area.

The Swansea-born raider—

KARL WOODWARD REPORTS

TEAMS

Cardiff City: Irwin, Dwyer, Pethard, Reece, England, Larmour, Buchanan, Livermore, Evans, Alston, Anderson, Sub: Giles.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell, Birdseye, Bullock, Mead, Delaney, Reardon, Anthony, Kennedy, Evans, Hollifield, Horseman. Sub: Alexander.

Referee: Mr. Leslie Slaughter (Paignton).

an accident with City 10 years ago—turned sharply to hit an angled left-footed drive that rebounded off the back of his team-mate Michael Hollifield.

Bill Irwin had to leave his line smartly to smother the rebound at the feet of Tony Horseman.

With their next attack Wycombe struck a post. Llan-elli-born Dylan Evans picked up an accurate through ball from Horseman to power a fierce left-footed drive on the turn from 12 yards, the ball smacking the base of an upright before cannoning clear.

City, warned against over-confidence against a side good enough to eliminate League clubs Newport County and Bournemouth in the last two F.A. Cup competitions, responded to the let-off with a right flank break.

Evans linked with Gil Reece, but the return cross by the midfielder eluded Evans as he took them all, and Irwin had the near post and Alston, difficulty saving the third. He moving in behind him just managed to push the stretched to turn the ball cross over his bar.

Three forwards lined up on City's goal-line for each of from Reece, this time a high the flag kicks, but the pressure was relieved when by Maskell under pressure from Alston.

City opened up Wycombe's defence again minutes later, Livermore slipping through a shrewd pass for Buchanan but his header lacked authority and was saved by the Maskell at the second attempt.

Wycombe, City's first non-League opposition in the tourney since they beat Cheltenham at Ninian Park 37 years ago, paid no respect to City's impressive run of four wins, and their attacks were constructed with no small measure of skill and imagination.

One 24th-minute raid, involving Evans and Hollifield, offered a half chance was City who began to Horseman when Irwin failed to gather Hollifield's defence.

But Horseman, searching for his 51st goal in a 14-year-career with Wycombe, fired hopelessly wide as England moved to cover.

From Wycombe's next attack Irwin was at full stretch to punch clear a cross-flight.

The 'keeper made another smart stop from an angled Evans drive in the 64th minute, before Birdseye hastily conceded a corner as Evans looked for the rebound.

Searching passes from Wycombe link man Reardon failed to break down a much tighter City rearguard. After 67 minutes Wanderers introduced substitute David Alexander for the 34-year-old Horseman.

City began to take command in midfield and produced some attractive play to warm the fans on a bitter afternoon. Some of the flicks and back heels notably by Reece, Evans and Alston, who played with cheeky confidence.

Alston was inches too high with a spectacular overhead kick. Dwyer saw his near post header deflected for a corner, and Anderson lifted a rising shot over the top.

Alston appealed unsuccessfully when he seemed to be fouled as he slipped past Delaney, but in the 75th minute the Australian international bustled through to aim a stunning left footer that Maskell failed to hold. Birdseye scrambled clear.

Anderson wasted a golden opportunity to put the match beyond Wycombe's reach in the 76th minute. He picked up an intended back pass by Mead but, chipped his goal effort straight at the 'keeper.

Irwin's courageous save denied the visitors an equaliser three minutes later.

Welshman Anthony ran into space for a pass by Alexander but Irwin saw the danger and left his line to smother at the substitute's feet.

Wanderers continued to push forward for the goal to force a Wednesday replay and Kennedy's cross shot glanced off a City defender for a corner. Horseman was not there to take it and City cleared.

The spirited late rally failed to bring Wycombe any reward, and it was Livermore, blocking an intended clearance, who almost doubled City's score in the 85th minute, the ball ballooning off him on to the roof of the Wycombe net.

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ing at Millwall last week was generally marked by two opponents.

In the 35th minute he was only inches outside the penalty area when he was sandwiched by Birdseye and Delaney as he tried to squeeze past them both.

The free kick came to nothing, and Anderson began to roam to the opposite flank to escape the close attentions.

Reece tried to prize openings with several determined breaks on the right. Evans chested down one cross, but was dispossessed before he could get in his shot.

Wycombe ended City's pressure with a counter-attack that almost earned them a 40th-minute lead. Terry Reardon striking a curving drive from 25 yards that Irwin, at full stretch, fingertipped for a corner.

But City took the lead two minutes before the end of a very evenly matched first half. The creator was Anderson, wandering once again to the right, and the scorer was TONY EVANS.

Dwyer on a throw-in, cut inside full back Bullock to flight a centre that Evans met squarely with his head some eight yards out.

Maskell did well to parry the effort, but Evans following through, stabbed home the rebound to continue his remarkable sequence of 11 goals in the last 14 games.

H—Cardiff City 1, Wycombe Wanderers 0.

Wycombe, justifiably aggrieved at being a goal down, launched a series of left flank attacks to force four corners within the first four minutes of the restart. The dead ball expert Horseman took them all, and Irwin had the near post and Alston, difficulty saving the third. He moving in behind him just managed to push the stretched to turn the ball cross over his bar.

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Attendance: 11,607